~~1. Mr. Morley Pam, H419~~
~~2. Dr Martin H413~~

RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1962.

Palmer & Son, Ramsey

RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
as at 31/12/62.

Chairman : E. H. C. Jones
R. Bojdys. E. Bridgestock, F. G. Cooke, H. A. Darling.
C. W. Green, H. W. Haddon, R. L. McMillan,
W. Mansfield, A. E. Papworth, A. J. Robinson,
A. H. Warde.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. O. MARCH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid-1962)	5,700
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1962	1,890
Rateable Value, March 31st, 1962	£52,045
Value of Penny Rate 1962/63	£200

To the Ramsey Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

The District is almost entirely devoted to agriculture, the town acting as a centre for the outlying areas, the chief of these being Ramsey St. Marys, Mereside, Forty Foot and the Heights. The Agricultural land consists largely of Fens, which were reclaimed several hundred years ago. It is extremely flat, and is drained by dykes, there being several pumping stations in the area.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population to be 5,700, a gain during the year of 10 persons. The population is now identical with what it was in 1955.

During the year there were 104 live births, giving a birth rate of 18.2 per thousand, which is slightly above the national average.

There were 72 deaths, which is rather more than normal, and gives an adjusted death rate of 13.6 per thousand.

Infectious disease was, as the tables indicate, extremely low. No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Small outbreaks of gastro-enteritis occur from time to time, but although swabs are taken to the Public Health Laboratory by car, and examined at once, it is rare for a causative organism to be found. It is hoped that this will diminish as an increasing number of houses are connected to the new sewers, and night soil collection ceases in the town. Considerable progress was made again in this direction during the year, 110 W.C.'s being constructed for old property, in addition to 31 for new houses.

At the end of the year only 28 houses in the town were having pails collected, as compared with 126 at the end of 1961, and many of these houses were in process of conversion, so that the pail emptying service in the town will soon cease.

There are still a lot of unfit houses in the District and unfortunately many of these are in the town centre. Fifty eight new houses will soon be available in the Slade Close and School Lane areas, which will help with slum clearance and other requirements. The last of the huts on the Wood Lane Camp will soon be closed and handed back to their owner. It will be good to be rid of these, which were a legacy from the War.

The water supply in the area is at present giving cause for anxiety, as poor pressure is being experienced in the higher parts of the District, but a water tower now under construction at Biggin Lane, Ramsey, should solve this problem. I am glad to report that during the year the number of houses without mains water has fallen from 113 to 18.

As the year finished we lost the services of our Surveyor and Public Health Inspector Mr. G. O. March, who resigned to take up a post with another authority. Mr. March joined the staff at Ramsey in June, 1954, and for eight and a half years held the combined appointment. This was a heavy responsibility for one man, and became worse latterly because of the greatly increased amount of meat inspection.

I am glad that the Council have now decided to split the appointment, having a full time Surveyor, and a full time Public Health Inspector and feel certain that this will prove of great benefit to the District, as there is at present a considerable amount of building in progress. The Town Centre is largely to be re-planned, owing to slum clearance, and the roads in the town still require considerable attention following the construction of the sewerage scheme. Demolition of very unsatisfactory old property in the Town must continue, and an improvement in standards of hygiene is now possible, as adequate sewerage facilities are now available.

In concluding, I wish to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff for their help given to me during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	
Number	104
Rate per 1,000 population	18.24
Illegitimate Live births per cent of total live births ...	4.81
Still-births	
Number	3
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	28
Total live and still-births	107
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	3
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	28.9
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	19.2
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	19.2
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.6

Infant Deaths	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Actual No. of Deaths	3	2	4	2	3	3
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	28.8	19.8	36.7	16.1	28.9	28.9

Deaths from Cancer (total)	19
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	2
Coronary Disease - Angina	17
Other Heart Disease	6
Total No. of Deaths	72

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

	Per 1000 Population				Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U.D.	18.2	18.2	12.6	13.6	28.9	28.0
England & Wales		18.0		11.9	21.4	18.1

Comparability Factor Births	1.00
Comparability Factor Deaths	1.08

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning amongst other things the age and sex structure of the population.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

	Causes of Death.	M. 32	F. 40	Total 72
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	–	–	–
2.	Tuberculosis, other	–	–	–
3.	Syphilitic disease	–	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	–	–	–
5.	Whooping cough	–	–	–
6.	Meningococcal infections	–	–	–
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–	–
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	–	–	–
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	–	1	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	–	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	–	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	–	3	3
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	3	11
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	–	–	–
16.	Diabetes	–	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	3	2	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	12	5	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	–	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	1	5	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	–	1	1
22.	Influenza	–	–	–
23.	Pneumonia	1	5	6
24.	Bronchitis	1	2	3
25.	Other disease of respiratory system ...	–	–	–
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	–	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	–	–	–
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	–	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	–	–	–
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	–	–	–
31.	Congenital malformations	–	–	–
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	–	1
34.	All other accidents	–	–	–
35.	Suicide	–		–
36.	Homicide and operations of War ...	–	–	–

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

Housing :

Many unfit houses in the district are still being occupied because of the shortage of housing accommodation. A start on the Slum Clearance programme is to be made when the Slade Close and School Lane Houses become ready for occupation.

4 unfit vacant houses were demolished by the owners. The estimated number of unfit houses within the meaning of section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957 is 145 plus 15 temporary huts.

There is no known statutory overcrowding, although there are cases where families are living in overcrowded conditions.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	25
Number of inspections made for the purpose	61
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1

Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...	Nil
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	Nil
Number of families displaced	Nil
Number of houses demolished by agreement	Nil

New Housing :

There were 130 active applicants on the list for Council Houses at the end of the year, 12 families having been found accommodation.

The Council have two housing sites which are being developed at present and when they are completed 58 houses will become available for slum clearance and general housing needs.

The Council have a total of 530 houses and bungalows and there are 14 huts at the Wood Lane Camp occupied for temporary housing.

There were 31 houses erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants :

The Council approved 2 applications for discretionary improvement grants and 19 applications for standard improvement grants.

Work of improvement on 14 houses was carried out.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action		20
Analysis of complaints received :—		
Premises	2	
Accumulation of Refuse	4	
Drains	7	
Disinfestation	—	
Overflowing Cesspools	4	
Animals	3	
Miscellaneous	2	
	22	

Inspections and Visits :

New Buildings and Building Byelaws	161
Public Health Acts	74
Drain Tests	164
Housing Acts	76
Meat Inspections	184
Food and Drugs Act	5
Refuse Collection and Disposal	37
Factory Acts	—
Sewers	121
Cemetery	135
Mortuary	—
Moveable Dwellings	16
Petrol Storage	1
Miscellaneous	152
	1,126

Closets :

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s ...	1,515
Number of houses at the end of the year with Pail Closets	375
Number of houses at the end of the year with Privy Vaults	Nil
Number of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	31
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property...	110

Water Supply :

Samples from the water supply from Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board are taken at regular intervals and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Number of water samples taken from main supply ...	13
Number of satisfactory water samples	8
Number of unsatisfactory water samples	5

The five unsatisfactory water samples were taken from the Hollow and Benwick Road water main before the main was put into service.

The average daily consumption was 146,324 gallons, representing 25.67 gallons per head per day. It was necessary during the summer to impose restrictions on the use of water for gardens and washing vehicles, etc.

Eleven burst mains and forty-four burst services were located and repaired.

Poor pressure is still being experienced in the higher parts of the district and difficulty is had in maintaining an adequate supply during peak demands in dry weather.

The water tower now under construction at Biggin Lane, Ramsey will increase the storage capacity and should solve the problem of low pressure.

A water scheme for the Hollow was completed during the year and most of the houses and farms connected up to the mains. Only a few outlying farms are not on a mains water supply.

Number of Houses with mains supply	1,818
Population on mains supply (Est.)	5,447
Number of houses served by standpipe...	63
Population served by standpipe (Est.)	199
Water services provided for new properties	31
Water services provided for existing properties ...	37
No. of houses without mains water supply	18
Population without mains water supply (Est.)... ...	54

Meat and Food Inspection :

The privately owned slaughterhouse is operating satisfactorily except that difficulty is experienced in the disposal of trade waste and in dealing with the trade effluent. It is chiefly due to the trade effluent from this slaughterhouse that adverse reports have been obtained on the final effluent from the Council's sewage works. The desludging beds have not been operating satisfactorily due to the amount of pig hair, blood and fat finding its way to the works.

Owing to the times of slaughtering, and lack of Public Health Staff, it is not possible to give 100% meat inspection.

The following table shows the results of the meat inspection service :—

Number of slaughterhouses on register	1
Number of visits for meat inspection	184

Carcases inspected and condemned :

	Cattle excluding cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
Number inspected ...	221	18	15	518	9,591
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	1	—	1	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.88%	5.56%	—	0.19%	0.48%

Carcases inspected and condemned :

	Cattle excluding cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	12
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.125

Total weight of meat condemned	1,689½ lbs.
Total weight of other food condemned ...	113 lbs. 15 ozs.

Cysticercosis was not found during the year.

Food Premises :

(i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under :—

Butcher's Shops	10
Grocers and General Stores	23
Greengrocers	4
Bakers...	5
Confectioners...	3
Fish Premises...	3
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	3
Total ...	51

(ii) Number of Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 25

(iii) Number of inspections of registered food premises ... 5

(iv) There has not been a food hygiene education course during the year. Proprietors are aware of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(v) Condemned food is buried at the tip.

(vi) Usually small quantities of food are examined, and the lot condemned.

(vii) There are no Ice Cream manufacturers in the area, it is all pre-packed.

(viii) There have been no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year.

Public Swimming Baths :

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The construction of the new sewage disposal works and the laying of foul sewers in the Town have been completed, including the majority of the drain connections to individual properties. Owners have in the main co-operated in the conversion of pail closets to water closets. At the end of the year only 28 pails were being collected in the Town, and work was in progress on the conversion of many of these.

Instructions have been given for a report to be prepared on the provision of sewerage schemes in the areas outside the Town.

The Council give a free cesspool/septic tank emptying service, when necessary, 159 septic tanks etc., being emptied this year.

Factories Act 1937 :

Total number of Factories (including Bakehouses) ...	23
Number of visits during the year	—
Number of defects remedied	—

Refuse Collection :

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly in the Town Area and fortnightly in St. Mary's, The Heights, Mereside and Forty Foot Bridge, disposal being by controlled tipping at Brick Kilns Farm.

The collection of night soil is carried out by Contractors twice weekly in the Town Area and weekly in the outside areas. Night soil is disposed of by composting, but this is proving increasingly difficult. At the end of the year, 28 houses were not connected to the town sewers. Some of these houses are sub-standard and it is expected that all conversions will be completed early in 1963.

Moveable Dwellings :

The number of licences in force under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 was 16 for single vans, one for 3 vans and one for 12 vans. During the year six sites were cleared.

Rodent Control :

A Rodent control service is provided for private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Operator carried out the following inspections and treatments :—

	Properties Inspected	Rat Infested	Mice Infested	Treated
Houses	76	69	4	73
Business Premises ...	11	11	—	11
Agricultural Premises ...	59	42	—	42
Local Authority	13	8	1	9
Totals ...	159	130	5	135

Regular test baiting of sewers is carried out, but only minor rat infestation was found and treated.

In addition, 5 houses were treated for ants, 7 houses for wasps nests, 4 houses for bees nests and 2 houses disinfested of fleas.

General :

This report is on the work of Mr. G. O. March, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who relinquished his post on the 31st December, 1962. Appreciation is expressed of the interest and support of the Chairman, E. H. C. Jones, Esq., and Members of the Council, the guidance and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

HAROLD G. BELL,
Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1962.

DISEASE	Erysipelas ...	Smallpox ...	Scarlet Fever ...	Diphtheria ...	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	Pneumonia ...	Measles ...	Whooping Cough ...	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Jaundice ...	Dysentery ...	Poliomyelitis ...	Food Poisoning ...
Total Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cases admitted to Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

New Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground.
Phone : Peterborough 68010